



# Family Travel Security

## Planning for a Safe Vacation

### FAMILY TRAVEL SECURITY

Whenever your family walks out of your home they leave that zone of protection that you have created. When going on a family trip it is a good idea to develop a family travel security plan. Have a family meeting prior to leaving for vacation and discuss what should be done, using different scenarios. For example, ask your children what if we need to stay overnight in a hotel and you get separated? What should you do? What precautions should we take to be safer in the parking lot? What if someone tries to rob us while walking out to the car? etc.

Here are a few safety tips to help make your stay at a hotel/motel safe while traveling:

### ROOM LOCATION

Always request a room on an upper floor, if possible. Ground floor rooms are more vulnerable to crime problems because of access and ease of escape. In a high rise building, rooms above the fifth floor are usually safer than those below, again because of accessibility and ease of escape. Criminals do not want to be trapped on an upper floor inside a high rise hotel. High rise buildings usually have fewer ground level access points and are easier for the hotel staff to monitor who passes through the lobby after hours.

### ROOM SECURITY FEATURES

Hotel or motel rooms should be equipped with a solid wood or a metal door. Room doors should have a deadbolt lock with a one inch throw bolt. If the lock looks worn get another room. The knob lock should be hotel style where you can push a button on the inside knob and block out all keys. This feature prevents a former quest from entering the room once you are inside. Hotels with electronic card access have the advantage of being able to disable former key cards issued to other quests. The room door should have a wide angle peephole so you can view who is at the door before opening it. Teach your children not to open the door to any hotel/motel room without knowing the person on the other side. Make sure all windows and sliding doors are secured if they are accessible from the ground.

### SUPERVISE CHILDREN

Children should not be allowed to wander the hotel grounds unsupervised. Everyone at a hotel is stranger and it is difficult to discern who is a registered guest, who is safe and who has criminal intentions. **Do Not** leave a child at the pool or gym unsupervised.

## SUMMARY

- Always request a room on an upper floor, if possible
- A solid core door with a good deadbolt is best
- Electronic card access locks minimize key control questions
- Make sure the door has a peephole and night latch
- Use your do not disturb sign whenever you are in the room
- Inspect the room hiding places upon entering the room
- Check all locks and windows
- Supervise children at all times especially at the pool or gym
- If alone, ask the bellman for an escort to your room and use valet parking